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**C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L**COUNTRY **Albania**REPORT 

SUBJECT **Topographic Mapping/Organization and  
Facilities of the Topographic Division  
of the Ministry of Geology**

DATE DISTR. *17 July 61*NO. PAGES **13**

REFERENCES

DATE OF  
INFO.  
PLACE &  
DATE ACQ

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the State Enterprise for Topography, Ministry of Geology (Shtetmarija Shtetmore Se Topografise). This organization occupies one of four buildings housing the Ministry of Geology. It is located in the outskirts of Tirana on the road to Kavaje. (For convenience the State Enterprise for Topography will be referred to henceforth in this report as the "Topographic Section").

2.

3.

The Topographic Section is housed in a one-story red brick building. (The building layout is shown in Enclosure 1. The sketch also indicates activities in each room).

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## 4. [ ] Topographic Section [ ]

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The Section is organized into the following groups:

a. **Compilation (Room 1).** This group compiles topographic maps from data supplied by field teams. Equipment includes several drafting tables, a coordinatograph, and two hectograph-type reproduction machines. The chief of the group is Zef Noci, an engineer. Noci also teaches cartography at the University of Tirana at night. Six or seven cartographic draftsmen are employed here including Ylber Gareci and Ana Trebicka.

b. **Triangulation or Control (Room 2).** This office is responsible for providing the vertical and horizontal control required for mapping undertaken for Ministry of Geology projects. Most of the personnel in this section are employed in the field. Field teams work in groups of three, two professional surveyors and a recorder who is non-professional. A security officer (Sigurimi) accompanies the teams.

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[ ] The chief of the group is Adem Guda.

[ ] About 25 surveyors are attached to the group and about 10-12 recorders. Names of some of the personnel are as follows: (by team)

- (1) Sefer Sembloku, topographic surveyor; and Agim Paja, recorder
- (2) Petrit Ajllan, topographic surveyor and Ali Hyaka, topographic surveyor.
- (3) Ksheref Bashiri, topographic surveyor; Adem Mara, topographic surveyor and Gjinis [ina], recorder.

c. **Contours or Topography (Room 3).** This group is responsible for providing topographic contours and all other map information other than control for the Ministry of Geology topographic maps. Most of the personnel are engaged in field work. Contours are developed by plane table methods. The professional staff members are all military officers because only military schools offered training in this type of work. Field teams worked in groups of three or four, including a non-professional civilian assistant. The chief of this group is Philip Geci, a topographic engineer. Geci was formerly a colonel in the army but he was discharged in 1954. Other personnel include 2nd Lieutenants Istref Dulana, (fnu) Bushati, and Geni Bejio. All of these men are called military topographers. There are approximately ten field teams assigned to the group.

d. **Director for Administration (Room 4)** - Skender Xhungli is in charge of administration.

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- e. Computation (Rooms 5 and 6). The topographic surveyors used Rooms 5 and 6 as a place to work up their field notes into final form. Calculating machines were available for this purpose. These rooms were occupied mostly during the winter when field work was curtailed because of bad weather.
- f. Archives and Files (Room 7). Copies of all maps and geodetic control data used by the Section are filed in Room 7, including one copy of all maps produced by the Section, all triangulation lists completed by the Section, all military maps covering the Section's area of operation, triangulation lists obtained from the military needed for current operations and old Italian topographic maps. All maps and control data are locked in the room at night. The custodian, a party member, required signed receipts for any material taken from the room.
- g. Finance and Accounting (Rooms 8 and 9).
- h. Soviet Advisory Group (Room 10). Six Soviet topographic engineers are assigned to assist the Section. Fjedor Sovjetkin and Andree Alaksavig remain in this office and appear to have authority to censor maps at their discretion. The other four Soviets work in the field. Their salaries are roughly four times higher than their Albanian counterparts.
- i. Director (Room 11). The Director of the Topographic Section is Higmot Gongha, a party member who was trained in Yugoslavia and Moscow University. He is not technically qualified for his job, but he achieved his high position through party connections.

5.

The Topographic Section has no permanent field offices, but topographers nominally under the direction of the Section are assigned to field offices of the Ministry of Geology. These offices are called "Geological Enterprises." Their locations, together with the number of assigned topographers are as follows: (The term "topographer" as used below includes both topographic surveyors and persons engaged in plane table contouring).

- a. Kamp Tropoj - 3 topographers
- b. Qaf Bari Fike - number of topographers unknown
- c. Bulqiz - 6 topographers
- d. Rabik - 5 topographers
- e. Pogradec - 8 topographers
- f. Valona - 20-30 topographers are assigned to the Directorate of Petroleum in Valona. The group covers the entire area along the sea coast from Valona to Shkoder.

Semi-permanent Ministry of Geology field offices, called "Geological Expeditions" were assigned, as of 1959, in Kurbinesh, Marteneh, Gjinokastre, and Spec Mire Dite. [redacted] were usually on assignment from the Topographic Section headquarters in Tirana.

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6. [redacted]
- Complete control of mapping activities is a function of the Mapping Bureau, Ministry of Defense (Zyre Topografis Pergjane Ustareke). [redacted] "Bureau" described the office better than "Central Office" or "Branch". Actually, mapping is controlled by Soviet advisors attached to the Bureau.
7. [redacted]
- The Bureau is housed in two-story reinforced concrete building. [redacted]
8. [redacted]
- [redacted] about 100-130 professional topographers were at work there including topographic surveyors and other cartographic technicians. All personnel were members of the Albanian Army. The organization was built up rapidly starting about 1955. A training program in topographic mapping supervised by the Soviets was started in 1951. In that year a class in topographic mapping was started at the Enver Hoxha Military School. The first class, about 40 students, graduated in 1955; a second class starting in 1952 graduated about 30-40 technicians in 1956. In addition, between 10-15 Albanian officers received cartographic training in Moscow. [redacted]
9. [redacted]
- The Bureau compiled its topographic maps from aerial photography, and [redacted] stereo plotters were used.
10. [redacted]
- Lieutenant Novrus Derahivi and Captain Vasil Lasku, both topographers. [redacted]
11. [redacted]
- coordination with the Mapping Bureau was handled at the Ministry level. [redacted] used maps and triangulation data which were provided by the Mapping Bureau and the Bureau received copies of the topographic maps [redacted]
12. [redacted]
- [redacted] The field teams [redacted] must have temporary facilities in the areas where they work.

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13.

All maps and vertical and horizontal control data were considered to be secret. Needed material could be borrowed from the file room for use in the office or in the field but responsibility by individual borrowers was determined by a strict receipting system handled by the chief of the file room. All classified material had to be returned to the office at night except when it was being used in the field. A guard stationed at the entrance to the building kept out all unauthorized persons. Windows in the file room, compilation room, administrative officer's room and the Soviet advisor's room had both horizontal and vertical steel bars. The file room was locked as far

14.

Field teams carried classified control data and maps in the field. When military maps were available for the area to be covered they also were carried, but all marginal information, including coordinates, was cut off. Any information needed from the marginal data was carried in a separate notebook along with control data. Survey data obtained during the day was also carried in notebooks. Most of the control work undertaken by our teams supplemented existing control data and was needed for compilation of large scale maps. A member of the Sigurimi (Albanian security police) accompanied all field teams, and provided protection for the classified information we carried. He probably had responsibilities for watching the team itself.

Three:

1:50,000 scale military maps were confiscated by the Yugoslavian authorities. At night field teams turned in their data and maps to the security officer who deposited the information with the local Sigurimi post or a local police station. Members of field teams were not allowed to carry cameras.

15

Assigned personnel did not need any special documents to obtain material from this room. Occasionally, when maps or data were needed that were not in the file room, they were obtained from the Ministry of Geology building next door.

A letter signed by the Director of the Topographic Section was needed to obtain material in this manner.

16

The Topographic Section probably has a complete set of all topographic maps of Albania and also copies of all topographic maps published by the Mapping Bureau of the Ministry of Defense. Control data covering areas of operations were also available. the archives of the Ministry of Geology also contain the same material and perhaps more. maps not available in the Topographic Section were obtained from the Ministry of Geology.

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17. [redacted] the map file room in the Ministry of Geology [redacted]  
[redacted] is located on the second floor of the building, on the street side (as shown in Enclosure 2). Maps are kept in safes and the windows in the room are barred.
18. [redacted]  
The Compilation office produces one ink drawn copy of each map. The final drawing is sent to one of the other Ministry of Geology buildings. [redacted] the maps were printed [redacted] in black and white only. [redacted] eight copies are made and [redacted] they are sent to the Ministry of Geology, the Security Police, the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of Defense and the Soviet Advisory Group to the Ministry of Geology. The Topographic Section retains one copy. These copies bear a Ministry of Defense cache. These maps are prepared for the Ministry of Geology where they are used as bases for compiling geological maps. [redacted]  
[redacted] the final geological maps had the contours deleted.
19. [redacted]  
[redacted] the government agencies involved in agriculture and transportation would have these maps [redacted]
20. [redacted]  
In 1957 the Soviets re-occupied all the existing control stations and converted the coordinates to a new geodetic system. In addition, much new supplemental control was established. [redacted] additional supplemental control [redacted] was needed for the large scale mapping programs of the Topographic Section, Ministry of Geology. The Soviets completed their work in 1958 or 1959 and [redacted] the new maps compiled by the Mapping Bureau are based on the new control.
21. [redacted]
22. [redacted]
23. [redacted]
24. [redacted]

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25.

26.

27.

28.

There are two tidal gauges along the coast.

29.

30.

The Soviets supply the photography. They have planes based in Tirana and Kucove.

31.

32.

33.

34.

the Mapping Bureau, Ministry of Defense is probably the only organization working toward any definite objectives on a national scale. The Mapping Bureau is working on a new 1:50,000 series of the whole country. These are called "Strategic" maps. In addition, 1:25,000 scale topographic maps, called "Tactical" maps are being compiled of selected areas, which are areas of interest to the Army.

The Topographic Section, Ministry of Geology, is not working on mapping of the whole country, although the geologists may prepare such maps at small scales showing geology. The Section only works on maps of areas where exploration work is being conducted or planned, and for areas where there are mines. 1:2,000 maps are made of mining areas and 1:5,000 and 1:10,000 maps are made of areas

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surrounding the mines or areas where exploration is being conducted. The other Ministries probably have offices comparable to the Topographic Section which do special mapping

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35. [redacted] the Albanian military mapping [redacted]

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[redacted] appears to be a Soviet program, although Albania did need new maps. All of the control data used in the new maps were supplied by the Soviets and most of the personnel in the Mapping Bureau were trained by the Soviets and [redacted] most of the mapping equipment used there was supplied by the Soviets.

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36. [redacted]  
[redacted] about 1/7th of the country was covered by the new series.

37.

38.

39.

Priority is given to mapping the coastal area and the eastern border area at scale 1:50,000. [redacted] priorities for 1:25,000 mapping would be related to areas of military interest.

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40.

The priority areas are drawn on the Albanian map [redacted]  
In addition, the two areas shown on this map near Lin and Pogradec were mapped on a priority basis entirely by Soviet topographers assigned to the Soviet Advisory Group in the Ministry of Geology. The areas mapped are reported to contain uranium ore. There are about 70 Soviets in this Advisory Group, including two female and 4 or 5 male topographers. [redacted], there are about 20 or 30 topographers assigned to the Directorate of Petroleum who work in the coastal area between Valona and Shkoder.

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41.

[redacted] the Mapping Bureau, Ministry of Defense compiles most of these maps. The coloring on them is very bad.

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44.

45.

46.

Forest areas were shown in green and symbols for coniferous or deciduous trees were drawn in.

47.

48.

49.

two colors of blue were used, light blue for water and dark blue for grid lines/.

50.

51.

information on bridges was shown on a supplementary sheet which was attached to the map in most cases.

52.

The sheet had information on bridges, roads and towns, and other subjects.

53.

All the maps were in Russian.

54.

All the young people know the Russian language, it is a mandatory subject in school.

55.

Soviet and German instruments, such as theodolites. For accurate measurements used the German instruments.

56.

used Zeiss theodolites

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57.

58.

Except for topographic surveying there is not much civilian training in mapping in Albania.

59.

the importance of Chinese in Albania has been over-estimated.

60.

The executives might go to meetings  
They would probably go to the Soviet Union.

61.

Most Albanian surveyors have been assigned  
to the mines at one time or another.

62.

63.

64.

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Building Plan, Topographic Section  
 Albanian Ministry of Geology  
 Tirana

6. Computation	11. Director
5. Computation	10. Soviet Advisors
4. Administration	Reception Room
3. Contouring	9. Finance & Accounting
2. Triangulation	8. Finance & Accounting
1. Compilation	7. File Room, Maps and Geodetic Data

Main Entrance  
 (Guarded)

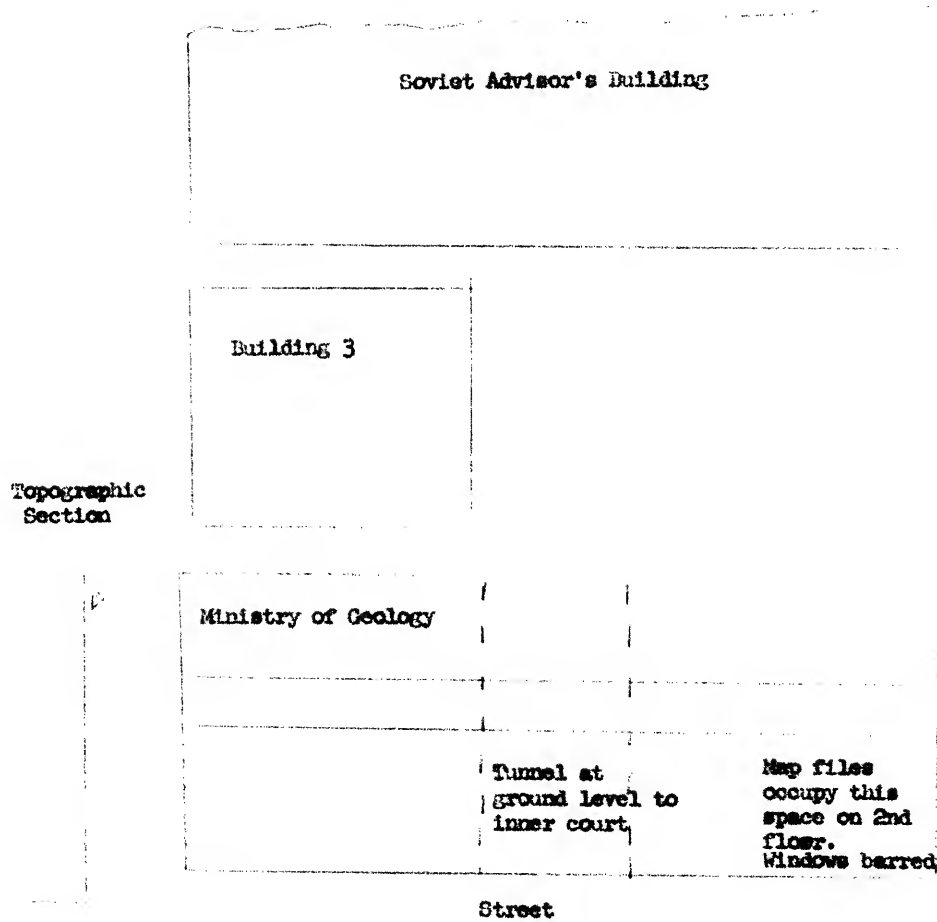
Room numbering system is arbitrary, numbers referenced in report.

ENCLOSURE 1

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Plan of Ministry of Geology building complex

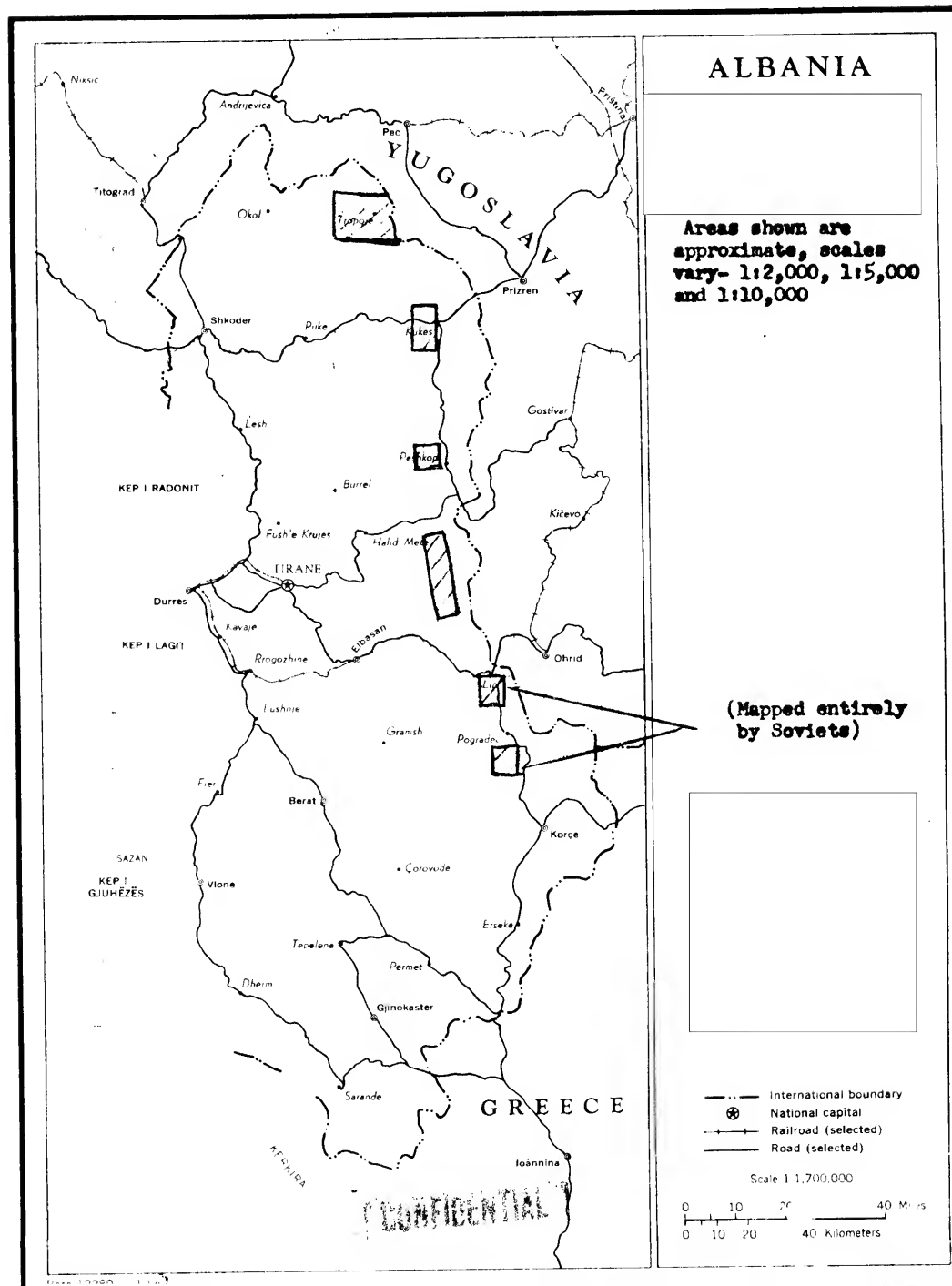
ENCLOSURE 2

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